

PEOPLE

Checking in with Jack Heffernan McClellan '11

The whole world will be watching — including many at SAPC — as Prince William marries Kate Middleton in what has been dubbed the “fairytale wedding of the century!” So, how could we resist a Q&A with our very own English import, Jack Heffernan McClellan '11?! Below, he gives us a bit of an idea of what life is like for him in jolly ol' England! And best wishes to Will and Kate! Tune in to your telly on April 29, to be part of their big day!

About our subject:

My name is Jack Heffernan McClelland, I was born and raised in a town called Guilford in Surrey, England. The golf program and education brought me to St. Andrews. I am currently a senior, about to graduate with a business degree in May.

Q.) Coming all the way from the UK, how did you first discover St. Andrews? And what was your first impression of this college?

A.) I was recruited by the golf coach at the time, he sent me an email asking if I would like to play golf at St Andrews while getting a education. I visited several schools and St Andrews came out on top. I came over to look at the campus in the spring and it was beautiful. All the people I met were really nice so it seemed like a great fit.

Q.) You are a golfer at St. Andrews and a business major, so do you plan on going into the business of golf?

A.) Yes, my plans are going into the business world that will involve golf in some way. My passion for golf and desire to be a businessman will hopefully combine to make a good career path.



Q.) Have you always had a passion for golf? Is it big in your home country?

A.) I've grown up playing golf with my father from a very young age and have kept playing ever since. I would say football (soccer) is the biggest sport in England but golf is not far behind.

Q.) What has been your best experience with the game of golf so far? For example, how many games have you won? What has been your highest score?

A.) At St. Andrews I have had a couple of personal highlights that stand out. In my freshman year, I qualified for the Regional Event that was held in Charlotte, NC which was a great experience from which I learned a lot. My biggest accolade in my St Andrews golfing career so far is winning the medalist position at the St. Andrews Spring Invitational Event at Woodlake Golf Resort in Vass, NC.

Q.) Have you noticed a difference between golf in the US and golf in the UK? Would you say that there's a general difference in sportsmanship between American athletes and those from the UK?

A.) The biggest difference I have noticed is the way the courses are built and the ground conditions.

“Think Globally, Act Locally”

Considering the size difference that America and England has, the courses are built on a more wide spread layout in America compared to a compact layout of golf courses in England. In addition, the grass conditions that we play on in England are very different to the Bent and Bermuda grasses we mainly play on in North Carolina.

Q.) There seems to always be a lot of discussion about the United States educational system in comparison to that in many other parts of the world, and the US is said to lag behind in many areas. Applied to sports, do you think that to be the case? Comparing the practice habits of golfers from the UK to those which you may have observed in the US, how would you rate American sportsmanship?

A.) It is hard to comment on the education system throughout the world, but I would say the education system is very different from England to America. But, In relation to the collegiate sport system, for example the NCAA, NAIA and other organizations; America is by far well ahead of Europe, especially England. There is nothing that can compare to the collegiate system that will allow athletes to play sports at such a high level while getting a good education.

Q.) It is quite obvious that American athletes are well-known for making big bucks. Would you attribute that to an intense American passion for sports, or would you say it's more talent related?

A.) The high performing athlete's throughout the world make some 'big bucks.' It is hard to answer that question if it is down to passion or talent.

Q.) That being said, would you like to be a rich and famous golfer someday?

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